

the state were to be secured forever. The necessary building was erected—able Professors were appointed—the College was opened—a number of youths from all parts of the state, and from some of the sister states, were drawn to it—and when the fondest hopes of its friends were more than realized, the legislature passed the law, of which your Memorialists are compelled to complain.

Your Memorialists do not at this time deem it necessary, in submitting their claim to the legislature, to urge all the arguments which might be offered in support of it, or to prove that the legislature had no power to pass the act of 1805, to which they have referred. That the endowment of St. John's College was a valid grant—that it was a complete and legitimate contract which the state did not possess the constitutional power of rescinding, can be now no longer controverted.

Your Memorialists would here ask leave to call the attention of the General Assembly to an adjudication by the Supreme Court of the United States, given in the case of Dartmouth College against Woodward. The material parts of the case are very simple, and may be comprised in a few words. The College charter was granted by the King in 1769, at the solicitation of some private individuals who had contributed funds for its establishment and support. The College went into operation, under the direction of the trustees appointed in and according to the provisions of the charter. Considerable funds were acquired by the trustees, and amongst the donations to it were lands by the state of Vermont, and other lands ascertained to be of great value, given to it at different times by the state of New Hampshire. The College continued to be governed by the corporation created by the charter, and to be conducted according to the provisions thereof, until the year 1816, when the legislature, without the consent of the corporation, undertook to pass an act to amend the charter, and enlarge and improve the corporation of Dartmouth College, and also some acts in addition to, and in amendment of,